

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested. The foregoing amendments comply with requirements of form and thus may be admitted under 37 CFR 1.116(b).

Claim Status

Claims 1-9 were presented. Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice. Claims 4, 7 and 9 are amended. Claims 2-9 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 2, 3, 6 and 8 is noted and appreciated. Claim 4 is amended to depend from claim 2 rather than from claim 1. Claim 5 depends from claim 4. Claim 7 depends from claim 5 and is amended to address antecedent basis issues. Claim 9 is amended to depend only from claims 4, 5 and 7 (claim 9/1 is canceled). Thus, claims 2-9 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102/103

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Gotoh (US 5,107,949). Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Gotoh in view of Galbraith (US 6,840,344). Claims 9/1 and 9/4 are rejected as obvious over Gotoh in view of Hanagan (US 3,927,727). Claims 9/5 and 9/7 are rejected as obvious over Gotoh in view of Galbraith and Hanagan. In response, as noted above, claim 1 is canceled without prejudice, and claims 4, 5, 7 and 9 are amended to depend from allowed claim 2.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after consideration and entry of this amendment.

Appl. No. 10/554,257
Amdt. dated February 10, 2009
Reply to Office Action of January 5, 2009

Atty. Ref. 89277.0073
Customer No. 26021

Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No.
50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: February 10, 2009

By:

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